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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1365th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 6 August 1990, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. TADESSE (Ethiopia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS:

(a) REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN (A/AC.109/L.1740; E/1990/72)

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/45/309)

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The CHAIRMAN: As I informed the Committee at an earlier meeting, Ambassador Ahmed Ghezal of Tunisia participated on behalf of the Committee in the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council at Geneva in July on the item relating to specialized agencies. I wish to thank Ambassador Ghezal on behalf of the Committee, and I now call on him.

Mr. GHEZAL (Tunisia) (interpretation from French): It was my honour to represent the Special Committee at the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council held in Geneva from 4 to 27 July 1990.

We participated actively in the debate on item 12 of the Council's agenda, which concerned the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. We circulated a draft resolution on that subject. That draft resolution clearly emphasized the problems of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The question was considered by the Third Committee - the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination - at its third, fourth, eighth, twelfth, thirteenth and eighteenth meetings, held on 12, 13, 17, 19 and 24 July 1990. The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration, in document A/45/309, and the report of the President of the

(Mr. Ghezal, Tunisia)

Economic and Social Council on the consultations held with the Chairman of the Committee of 24 and the President of the Special Committee against Apartheid, in document E/1990/72.

The Committee held a general debate on the question, beginning with an opening statement which I gave on behalf of the Special Committee. Statements were also made by the representative of Italy, speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community; by the representatives of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Ghana, Jordan, Yugoslavia and Pakistan; and by the observers of the Syrian Arab Republic, Egypt and Palestine. The representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Trade Union Federation also made statements.

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(Mr. Ghezal, Tunisia)

The representatives of the Bahamas, Bulgaria, Cuba, Indonesia, Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Zambia, speaking on behalf of the African States, sponsored the draft resolution. Following lengthy and ultimately fruitful consultations held at the highest level, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution on which the representative of the United Kingdom made a statement and requested a roll-call vote. The Committee adopted the revised draft resolution by 45 votes to none, with 1 abstention. The Council, in turn, adopted it by 52 votes to none.

In the resolution the Economic and Social Council reaffirms the responsibility of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all effective measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to assist in the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of United Nations bodies. It also reaffirms that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspiration of colonial peoples to exercise their right to self-determination and independence entails, as a corollary, the extension by the United Nations system of organizations of all the necessary moral and material assistance to those peoples.

The Council recommends that all States should intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration and other related resolutions of the United Nations system. It urges the administering Powers concerned to facilitate the participation of the representatives of the Governments of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories at the relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations, so that the Territories may draw the

(Mr. Ghezal, Tunisia)

maximum benefits from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system.

The Council further urges the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system to adhere to the Programme of Action contained in the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa.

Lastly, the Council requests its President to maintain close contact on those matters with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to report thereon to the Council.

The CHAIRMAN: Once again I wish to thank Ambassador Ghezal, the Permanent Representative of Tunisia, a country which, as you know, also chairs one of our sub-committees, for having so ably represented the Committee at the Economic and Social Council meetings and for his oral report.

I call on the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance, Mr. Alexander Slabý of Czechoslovakia, to introduce the 281st report of that Sub-Committee relating to the item contained in document A/AC.109/L.1722.

Mr. SLABÝ (Czechoslovakia) (Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance): On behalf of the Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance, I have the honour to introduce the 281st report of the Sub-Committee on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. The report appears in document A/AC.109/L.1722 and contains the results of consultations with the specialized agencies that were heard this year. In the light of the consultations and in view of the need to increase and accelerate concrete assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Sub-Committee recommended that the Special Committee should commend those specialized agencies

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that have continued to co-operate with the United Nations in the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and should ask them to accelerate the full and speedy implementation of the relevant provisions of those resolutions and decisions and to render or to continue to render, as a matter of urgency, all possible moral and material assistance to the peoples of all colonial Territories.

The Sub-Committee also requested the Special Committee to recommend that concrete programmes of assistance to colonial peoples should be worked out and implemented and that assistance provided by the specialized agencies should not only meet the needs of those peoples but also create conditions conducive to development after the peoples concerned have exercised their right to self-determination and independence, taking into consideration the need to preserve indigenous cultures and traditions, as well as the benefits they may provide for development. In this connection the Sub-Committee recommended that the Special Committee should emphasize the importance of co-ordination of the programmes of assistance provided by the specialized agencies.

Furthermore, the Sub-Committee recommended that the Special Committee should commend all those agencies which have terminated relations with the racist South African régime and that the General Assembly should hold accountable those agencies and organizations that continue to co-operate with, and extend such assistance to, South Africa. The Sub-Committee recommended that the Special Committee should take note of the statement made by the representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on 6 April 1989, in which he said that South Africa had paid back to the Fund all the amounts it had borrowed, along with interest charges; the Sub-Committee expressed its strong conviction that the total isolation of the apartheid system

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implies serious instability in the South African economy, and it stated its view that IMF should not extend any credits or any kind of assistance to South Africa as long as apartheid continues to exist.

Lastly, the Sub-Committee recommended that the Special Committee should reiterate its conviction that the consultations with specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system were appropriate means of further strengthening the role of those organizations in the process of decolonization and that the Special Committee benefits from their experience in that process.

In conclusion, let me express the hope that the report will be approved by the Special Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: As members will recall, at its 1363rd meeting on 1 August, the Committee granted a request for hearing relating to the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies to Mr. Carlyle Corbin, of the United Nations Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee. I call on Mr. Corbin.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Carlyle Corbin (Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries of the United Nations Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC)), took a place at the petitioners' table.

Mr. CORBIN: I appreciate the opportunity to address the Special Committee, on behalf of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries of the United Nations Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), on the agenda item relating to the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and other organs of the United Nations system. CDCC is a permanent subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, known by the acronym ECLAC, or CEPAL in Spanish.

CDCC was established in 1975 as a co-ordinating mechanism for co-operation in Caribbean socio-economic and related matters and is the most comprehensive of any Caribbean organization at the ministerial level, encompassing the widest possible array of Caribbean countries irrespective of level of political and constitutional development. CDCC collaborates with other regional and subregional organizations, Latin American institutions and the United Nations system of organizations to facilitate increased participation by the CDCC member countries, both independent and non-independent, in activities of the United Nations. Currently, three of the non-independent Caribbean countries under review by this Special Committee are associate members of CDCC - the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the United States Virgin Islands. Additionally, Bermuda, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, Anguilla and Puerto Rico are eligible for associate membership, with Puerto Rico having joined the parent body of ECLAC in March of this year. The free associated territories of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba are also associate members of CDCC.

(Mr. Corbin)

In his statement before this Committee last year, the Chairman of CDCC expressed the Committee's interest in developing closer collaboration with the Special Committee in respect of CDCC programmes and activities which promote the economic and social development of the Caribbean, including the non-indepedent Caribbean countries. Such activity is consistent with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. Particularly noteworthy is an activity of CDCC on the examination of the non-independent countries' access to programmes and activities of the United Nations system with the aim of, first, identifying areas within the United Nations system which could assist the economic and social development of those non-independent countries and, secondly, promoting the increased access of those countries to the work of the United Nations system.

The involvement of all Caribbean countries in United Nations programmes has been a particular concern of CDCC since its formation. CDCC was designed as a subregional grouping within wider Latin America to concentrate on concerns unique to the island developing countries of the Caribbean, irrespective of political status, language or other artificial barriers which have served to limit communication within the region.

At the tenth ministerial session of CDCC, held in Trinidad and Tobago in 1987, member Governments approved a resolution on a programme of support for small island countries, which included a component directing the CDCC secretariat to examine the access of those countries to United Nations programmes and activities, with the aim of identifying areas within the system which could provide technical and other assistance in the furtherance of those countries' development process. That activity coincided with resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly confirming that the participation of those countries in the United Nations system is in furtherance of the decolonization process. Those resolutions commended the

(Mr. Corbin)

use of special provisions in the constitutions of certain United Nations specialized agencies and of regional commissions to permit the admission of non-independent countries as associate members and called for the progressive increase of participation by non-independent countries in the work of the technical organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations.

The initial review by the CDCC secretariat undertaken in 1988 revealed that compliance with those resolutions varied, depending on the agency concerned, and that, even in cases where the terms of reference of a particular agency were changed to allow for associate membership or observer status, information on potential participation by such Territories was not available. Recognizing the need for further review, CDCC at its eleventh ministerial session, held in the United States Virgin Islands at the end of 1988, approved the continuation of the examination of this access and initiated contacts with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific regarding potential joint activities in this field with respect to the Pacific non-independent countries. The Economic and Social Council subsequently approved the report of the Secretary-General on regional co-operation endorsing the continuation by CDCC of these efforts.

To consolidate further the emphasis on this issue, CDCC created, at its twelfth ministerial session, held in the Netherlands Antilles in 1989, a Working Group on Non-Independent Country Access to the United Nations System and is currently undertaking an analysis on the current level of participation by the non-independent Caribbean countries and potential modalities for increasing the access of those countries.

(Mr. Corbin)

The activities of CDCC in this area were recently endorsed by the Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization, conducted by this Special Committee in Barbados in June 1990, and also approved by this Committee in adopting the report of that seminar, which endorsed, in paragraph 20, the view that:

"Direct and closer participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the United Nations was an effective means of promoting the progress of the peoples of those Territories."

Also contained in the report adopted by this Committee was the proposal that:

"The Special Committee, in consultation with the CDCC, should request specialized agencies to either implement their provision for the membership of the Non-Self-Governing Territories or to introduce such provisions where none exist consistent with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly."

Paragraph 20 of the report of the Barbados Seminar also referred to the need to make every effort to facilitate this participation.

It is the view of the Working Group of CDCC in this connection that the unique characteristics of the individual Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned should be of paramount importance in the formulation of strategies for their socio-economic development, including the facilitation of their participation in United Nations programmes, since those Territories are at differing levels of political, constitutional and socio-economic development, requiring differing approaches to their development process.

(Mr. Corbin)

A communique of the non-independent Caribbean country Governments of Montserrat, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, adopted at the close of the Barbados seminar in June of this year, also:

"called upon the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to actively pursue all necessary measures to the acceleration of progress in the social and economic life of the Territory"

and called for the

"direct facilitation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the United Nations".

Additionally, the issue of non-independent Caribbean country participation in programmes of the United Nations system, as an essential component of a programme of action for island developing countries, was approved at the preparatory meeting of island developing countries of the Caribbean held in Saint Lucia in March 1989 and subsequently endorsed by the meeting of governmental experts of island developing countries and donor countries and organizations held here at United Nations Headquarters in June of this year.

The parallel between the work of the Committee and that of CDCC with respect to the promotion of the socio-economic development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean has thus been established, as well as the desire of member Governments for close collaboration between our two United Nations bodies, and CDCC, through its Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries, looks forward to working with the Special Committee on these issues.

The CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank Mr. Corbin for the information he has furnished. If there are no questions or comments, Mr. Corbin may now withdraw.

Mr. Corbin withdrew.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will continue consideration of this item at its next meeting.

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): With the end of the 1980s, the world has witnessed some changes that would have been inconceivable in earlier years. Détente has eliminated the spectre of nuclear and cold wars and centred on regional hotbeds of tension; the problems in some of these have been resolved, such as Afghanistan, Cambodia, Namibia and others.

It is no exaggeration to say that these changes have presented the world, especially the national liberation movements, with some issues that have to be dealt with. National liberation movements have been seeking freedom, independence, self-determination, the preservation of their national resources and the right to make progress and catch up with the technical and scientific revolution. As a result, they have found themselves face to face with the problem of reconciling these new changes with their rights and the preservation of their national resources. They are fully convinced that wars of mass destruction and the arms race, which has extended to outer space, do not serve the interests of humanity at large.

Peoples everywhere are anxious for freedom and peace. They do not want to serve merely as an input for these new changes. Rather, they want these changes to serve the interests of all peoples, including the peoples of the national liberation movements. In other words, these changes should lead to recognition of the indisputable principles of freedom, self-determination and the illegality of occupation by force of other territories, together with recognition of their right to invest their national resources in progress and development.

(Mr. Shaheed, Syrian Arab Republic)

The peoples of the national liberation movements are desirous of helping to bring about international détente. At the same time, they want their interlocutors in détente to recognize their right to play a role, for détente should not take place at the expense of issues important to the peoples of the national liberation movements. On the contrary, it should serve the interests of those peoples and limit the causes for international disputes and regional wars.

Hence, we can say that the détente should not be merely verbal and centred on regional disputes but should follow one single road, namely, recognition of the aforementioned principles, which cannot and should not be compromised.

Respect for the Charter of the United Nations should be the first priority. The Charter enables peoples to attain self-determination and establish their national States. In addition, it makes it illegal to occupy the land of others. It dictates respect for international law.

We cannot discuss the political issues of the world without enabling the peoples of the world to attain their full rights. The Arab people of Palestine should not be prohibited from practising its right to self-determination. Freedom in the world should not be doled out in portions. The same is true of human rights. This is especially so in the case of the Arab Palestinian people, who have long resisted the occupation and demonstrated their determination to regain their rights.

(Mr. Shaheed, Syrian Arab Republic)

The world's peoples, especially the peoples of the national liberation movements, have always been steadfast in defending freedom. They have been against aggression and oppression. They have always supported changes and developments based on those principles, on which all humanity has been unanimous in every era and age.*

Mr. MOHAMMADI (Afghanistan): First, let me express to our Chairman, on behalf of my delegation, my heartfelt congratulations on his chairing this important Committee on decolonization. I assure him that the delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan is ready, as in the past, to co-operate with him in all the Committee's activities.

I should also like to take this opportunity to extend my delegation's appreciation to our colleagues, the Chairmen of the Sub-Committees, for their efforts and successful work during the current year's session. Our thanks and appreciation also go to our Rapporteur and the other officers of the Committee.

In recent years our world has been witness to important and historic events. These great events have occurred in circumstances in which the international community has moved towards compromise and the political settlement of various problems around the world.

We believe that our Organization's role in the settlement of global problems, including the speedy process of decolonization and the complete eradication of apartheid and racism, has become more significant and definite.

We celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples at a time when the international community has witnessed a great event of the

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* Mr. Slabý (Czechoslovakia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

(Mr. Mohammadi, Afghanistan)

decolonization era. During the current year, as a result of the historic struggle of the people of Namibia, with the firm support of the international community, the last colony has disappeared from the map of Africa. The tireless and undaunted efforts and definitive role of the United Nations, particularly the success of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group's historic operation for the independence of Namibia, are very significant today. Namibia is now for ever a free, sovereign, independent country and a full Member of our Organization. The struggle for economic development and social well-being has begun. We hope that the people of Namibia, with their firm resolve, will achieve their goals of economic and social progress. We hope that the international community will provide them with every assistance in their noble endeavours.

The Declaration, a landmark in the history of our Organization, truly marked the beginning of a new era, the era of decolonization. Since then scores of peoples and nations have gained their independence, established their States and joined the United Nations as full Members, making the Organization truly universal. Their contribution to the realization of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations has indeed been very significant. However, we must regretfully note that remnants of colonialism are still with us and that the work of this Committee remains unfinished. Humankind still suffers from colonialism, racism and apartheid, and there are still a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the world. During the history of colonialism the colonial Powers took steps and measures to create obstacles to speedy decolonization. We have been faced with a lack of co-operation by the administering Powers.

We believe that one of the main obstacles to the speedy and complete eradication of colonialism in some Territories consists in military arrangements

(Mr. Mohammadi, Afghanistan)

and military activities by colonial Powers. Those arrangements and activities have made the process of decolonization more complicated. We hope that under the influence of recent global developments, particularly in disarmament, the colonial Powers will take positive measures in this regard. This is necessary not only for the cause of international peace and security but also for the realization of their commitments to create conditions for a speedy decolonization process.

We favour economic development of the Territories still under colonialism, but we condemn any foreign economic activity geared to serve only the interests of colonial Powers. Economic and social activities in those Territories should be devoted chiefly to the speedy eradication of colonialism.

Because of the negative consequences of the policy of apartheid and racism, the delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan fully supports the work of the United Nations specialized agencies and other international institutions associated with the United Nations to promote economic and social progress in those Territories and the dissemination of information.

We believe that as a Committee, we have done the work allocated to us during the current year. On the other hand, it is not enough. Our Committee needs to do more in its future work. This depends on each member's finding decisive ways for the speedy process of decolonization.

One of the points of conflict which my delegation would like to refer to is the question of Western Sahara. My delegation believes that with support for resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Organization of African Unity, the problem can be solved through good will and understanding. It firmly supports the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). The Afghan delegation fully supports the joint proposals of the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of

(Mr. Mohammadi, Afghanistan)

African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to holding a referendum for self-determination by the people of Western Sahara.

While supporting the General Assembly resolutions regarding the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), we firmly believe that the continuation of the current negotiations between the parties concerned is the only way to find a peaceful, just and lasting solution of the question. We appreciate the position of the Government of Argentina, which has reiterated its intention of complying with relevant General Assembly resolutions.

Regrettably, humankind still suffers from the continuation of inhuman policies of apartheid, racism, exploitation and tyranny on our planet. At the same time, the long and historic struggles of peoples against these inhuman policies, which are most conspicuously manifested in South Africa, have achieved fruitful successes. We believe that there exists an opportunity to solve the problem of apartheid by political means. The release of some political prisoners - in particular, the best known figure, Nelson Mandela - is the result of the South African people's struggle in the country and the struggle of democratic forces all over the world. But Africa's freedom cannot be complete while the apartheid régime remains in South Africa.

Lastly, let me underscore the fact that difficult situations never last for ever. We are looking forward optimistically to the peace, freedom and prosperity of all people on the planet Earth. Nations need mutual and close co-operation more than ever.

Mr. SRIWIDJAJA (Indonesia): Permit me at the outset to convey the warm felicitations of the Indonesian delegation to Ambassador Tadesse on the distinction of serving as Chairman of the Special Committee's meetings. We look forward to successful and meaningful deliberations under his exemplary stewardship, in addressing the important and pressing agenda items that have been entrusted to the Committee.

Thirty years ago the General Assembly unanimously adopted the Declaration on the Granting of Independent to Colonial Countries and Peoples. This historic and landmark Declaration provided the basis for decolonization, which has resulted in the creation of many States which are today Members of the United Nations and has brought about fundamental changes in the established pillars of the global political and economic arena. The significant role of the Special Committee on decolonization in promoting these fundamental changes leading towards the statehood and independence of former colonies is now a reality.

There is no doubt whatsoever in our minds that the tedious and arduous efforts of the Special Committee on decolonization culminated in the achievement of the long-awaited, historic independence of Namibia. Bringing Namibia to independence took just under a year, nearly $400 million, and the efforts of more than 8,000 United Nations persons from more than 100 counries working from some 200 locations throughout the Territory. Peaceful elections drew more than 96 per cent of the electorate to the November ballot. On 21 March 1990 Namibia became an independent nation. The recent birth of the sovereign and independent State of Namibia and its admission to the United Nations as the one hundred and fifty-ninth Member State of the Organization gave Indonesia, as a member of the Special Committee on decolonization since its inception, a sense of immense pride at having been so closely associated with the unfailing fervour and determined efforts of the other members of the Special Committee.

(Mr. Sriwidjaja, Indonesia)

From the beginning of its membership in the United Nations, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Non-Aligned Movement, Indonesia has consistently taken the firm position of supporting the struggle of all dependent peoples to exercise their sacred and inalienable right to self-determination. In addition, we are only too well aware, being a former colony ourselves, that after the evil vestiges of colonial bondage have been shaken off, the path ahead to sound social and political development is fraught with burdensome economic difficulties and sacrifices. We therefore salute the people of Namibia for their undying courage and patience.

In expressing our poignant feelings of brotherhood, victory and hope for Namibia, we cannot fail to say a few words on the dire and sombre subject of apartheid in South Africa. The international community has recently been the object of a barrage of hazy speculation about a change in policy by the South African Government - against apartheid. But we in the international community must continue to pledge our unfailing efforts to the dismantling of the inhuman wall of apartheid by the vigilant imposition of sanctions until this concrete wall is bulldozed, brick by brick. Only then will every citizen of South Africa be able to enjoy the long-awaited fruits of equal citizenship, universally recognized human rights and the equitable sharing of economic and social programmes.

Whilst we are addressing the tyrannical aspects of the colonialism that still thrives around the globe, attention must be focussed on the tragic sequence of events in the Middle East that affect the destiny and future of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. Over the past few decades Palestinians have been denied their inalienable right to self-determination and the right to return to their homeland. They are now subjected to the settlement of new waves of immigrants in the occupied territories.

(Mr. Sriwidjaja, Indonesia)

Also, we must persistently search for and formulate new, innovative strategies to assist the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific and Indian Oceans and the Caribbean in finding solutions, including the enlisting of outside economic assistance and investment by foreign corporations. The economic dependency of the Non-Self-Governing Territories has been a constant impediment to the successful process of decolonization. It is necessary that international organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations assist in making significant contributions to the promotion of political and economic development, so that the people in these Territories can enjoy the same rights as peoples elsewhere.

I would be remiss if, in concluding, I did not note that, on the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and People, Indonesia takes immense pride in having had the distinct privilege of participating in the regional seminar at Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 9 to 11 May 1990, where this anniversary of the Declaration was commemorated. The Special Committee and its members can look back proudly to the periods in history when insurmoutable obstacles were eliminated and turbulent conflicts were resolved, and the commanding presence of freedom triumphantly reigned supreme around the globe.

We look forward to the advent of economic growth and progress in the aftermath of colonialism.

Mr. YU Mengjia (China) (interpretation from Chinese): It is a great pleasure for the Chinese delegation to see Ambassador Tadesse presiding over this session of the Special Committee on decolonization. We are confident that under his guidance the session will be a success. I wish to take this opportunity also to thank the other members of the Bureau for their efforts.

(Mr. Yu Mengjia, China)

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; a series of activities commemorating this event have been held by the Committee. These activities are of great importance in securing the further implementation of the provisions of the Declaration in the world today. Over the past 30 years, inspired by the spirit of the Declaration the people of colonies and Non-Self-Governing Territories have carried out an unremitting struggle to free themselves from colonial domination, to strive for national self-determination and independence, and to take their destinies into their own hands. A large number of countries have won their independence and become Members of the United Nations. This represents a major contribution to world peace and development as well as to the progressive cause of mankind. What should be mentioned in particular is that, after waging a protracted struggle, the Namibian people have achieved their independence. This is not only an important historical event in itself, but also a major victory for the cause of decolonization, on which we wish to express our warm congratulations.

(Mr. Yu Mengjia, China)

The colonial system has already collapsed, which indicates the general trend of historical development. But the remnants and manifestations of colonialism have yet to be removed, and hegemonism and power politics continue to threaten world peace. At present, there remain more than a dozen Non-Self-Governing Territories, which have not yet achieved self-determination and independence. While they are small in size and in population, their peoples are none the less entitled to the right of self-determination and independence. This Committee should take effective steps to accelerate the decolonization process. We hope the administering Powers will scrupulously discharge their obligations as provided for in the United Nations Charter to help promote the development of Non-Self-Governing Territories in all fields and enable their peoples to achieve self-determination at an early date in keeping with their own free will.

With regard to the question of Western Sahara, the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) have worked long and hard to bring about a peaceful settlement. The settlement plan submitted by the Secretary-General in his report dated 1 July 1990 has already been approved by the Security Council. We are pleased with the progress made on this issue and hope that it will be resolved peacefully at an early date.

With respect to the question of foreign military activities in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, we have consistently opposed the deployment of military forces and the establishment of military bases or installations in foreign countries and in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories. We consider that all foreign troops should be withdrawn and all foreign military bases and installations dismantled.

The current international situation continues to change, and there is a positive trend towards greater relaxation of international tension. In our view, this situation ought to help the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories achieve

(Mr. Yu Mengjia, China)

speedier development in the political, economic and social spheres and hasten the process of decolonization and the exercise of the right of self-determination by the peoples of those Territories, rather than the contrary.

In connection with the work of the Special Committee, the Chinese delegation supports efforts to improve its efficiency with a view to the full implementation of the Declaration and the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter and to achieve the goal of eradicating all forms of colonialism at a faster pace.

China is a developing socialist country that in the past was the victim of prolonged colonialist domination. We consistently stand against colonialism of any kind, and against hegemonism and power politics. We consistently support the peoples of colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories in their struggle for national self-determination and independence; we respect their right to self-determination. Together with the rest of the international community, we shall continue our effort to eliminate colonialism once and for all.

Mr. ANVIRE (Côte d'Ivoire) (interpretation from French): My delegation is pleased to see you, Sir, guiding our Committee. Your diplomatic experience guarantees the success of our work. I wish also to thank the Chairmen of the two Sub-Committees for the work they carried out in the particularly calm atmosphere that has reigned during our work this year. In addition, I should like to thank all our colleagues for their active participation in the work of the Sub-Committees. We thank the countries that hosted the two seminars held this year.

The documents before us show that colonialism is truly present in many parts of our planet. After more than 40 years of struggle, the United Nations has not yet been able totally to eliminate that scourge. The striking and fruitful efforts of the United Nations in the field of decolonization must continue so that in the year 2000 we shall be completely rid of this evil.

(Mr. Anvire, Côte d'Ivoire)

Côte d'Ivoire is very pleased that Namibia has at long last gained its independence after years of suffering and humiliation. The United Nations and its Secretary-General, and the Heads of State who strove to bring about this outstanding event - inter alia, through the signing of the Brazzaville agreement and the 1988 New York agreement - deserve our commendation and thanks.

The commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples gave us the opportunity at two regional seminars to meet with and listen to the genuine representatives of the 18 Territories still under colonial domination. The reports of those seminars are available, and they are relevant.

It is not my intention to return to the conclusions that were adopted, since most of the previous speakers have discussed them. I would merely note that the remaining colonial Territories - most of them tiny island Territories - need assistance, first of all assistance from the administering Powers, but also assistance from the international community as a whole.

My delegation believes that much remains to be done in political terms with respect to preparing the populations for self-determination. Independence is not the only option before them; there is also free association with the former colonial Power, integration into an existing independent State, and so forth.

(Mr. Anvire, Côte d'Ivoire)

Since the circumstances of each Territory are different, it is clear that the United Nations will always have to consider which formula is best suited to each. The administering Powers have a very important role here, and their co-operation with our Committee under Article 73 e of the Charter is essential.

In the economic field, as in the political, the socio-economic future of the Non-Self-Governing Territories is a matter of great concern to the United Nations. My delegation remains convinced that only the inflow of external capital provided by international institutions associated with the United Nations or by private organizations and individuals can help the island Territories to emerge from their impoverished state, in all its aspects. The peoples concerned are seeking assistance in education, protection of the environment, fishing, tourism and transport, as is shown by the reports of the regional seminars. Here I would also draw the Committee's attention to the conclusions reached at the meetings of governmental experts of the island developing countries with donor countries and bodies, held here at Headquarters from 25 to 29 June this year, under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Those conclusions are to be found in document TD/B/AC.46/L.1 and Add.1 and other documents considered at those meetings.

Now that détente has become well established in international relations, we firmly believe that we should give further encouragement to all those with the means to help small Territories, for in many cases foreign investment can create centres of development and accelerate education and training, and thus better prepare the countries concerned to shoulder the tasks of development after they have attained independence.

Following the independence of Namibia, which was an exceptional case, our Committee must be more judicious in its approach to questions relating to the activities of foreign economic and other interests and to the role of the

(Mr. Anvire, Côte d'Ivoire)

specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, or institutions associated with the United Nations, in the colonial Territories. The name of Namibia still appears in the title of one of the items on our agenda for today, item 2, and we think that there will be time to reflect on this.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will continue consideration of this item at its next meeting.

ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (A/AC.109/1020, 1024, 1028, 1032, 1034 and 1035)

The CHAIRMAN: In this connection, the Committee has before it the relevant working papers prepared by the Secretariat.

To begin the general debate, I should like to speak now on behalf of my delegation, the delegation of Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovakia's participation since the founding of the United Nations has been aimed at contributing to the application and strengthening of the principles of the United Nations Charter and the decisions and resolutions of the Organization. Similarly, as a free and democratic country, we consider it of overriding importance to denounce colonialism and racism as practices that violate the rules of international behaviour and prevent peoples subjected to those practices from exercising the right to self-determination enshrined in the United Nations Charter and in historic General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), bearing in mind resolution 1541 (XV).

Great attention should be paid continuously to the operation of foreign economic and other interests in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. My delegation has expressed its position on the question under discussion many times. We can now only repeat that those activities can in many cases constitute a major obstacle to

(The Chairman)

achieving the political independence of the respective Territories. Hence, we condemn those aspects of the activities of foreign interests that call into question the legitimate aspirations to self-determination of the peoples of the Territories in question and dash their hopes of being able to achieve them, while realizing that some aspects of the activities of foreign economic and other interests could be beneficial to the economic and social development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Proceeding on the basis of those assumptions, we do, and will, evaluate both positive and negative aspects in assessing the influence of foreign capital and foreign investments. It is necessary not to reject flatly foreign investments, but rather to consider them from the viewpoint of the need to regulate them reasonably so as to avoid such negative phenomena as one-sided profiling of the economies of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, loss of national identity and culture, the devastation of nature and, last but not least, the plunder of the natural resources of each Territory. It is also necessary to remind the administering Powers of their responsibility for combating crime and drug trafficking, and to appeal to them possibly even in connection with the need to adopt adequate measures to prevent the dumping of toxic waste in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The Czechoslovak delegation unambiguously rejects any misuse of such Territories for military purposes, which we regard as practices running directly counter to a number of United Nations decisions. Moreover, we would primarily call attention to the negative impact of military activities on the economy, environment and political development of Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly from the point of view of the implementation of the right to self-determination.

I now resume my duties as acting Chairman.

As there are no further speakers, the Committee will continue consideration of the item at its next meeting.

MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS BY COLONIAL POWERS IN TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION WHICH MIGHT BE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (A/AC.109/1018, 1027 and 1030)

The CHAIRMAN: In this connection, the Committee has before it the relevant working papers prepared by the secretariat.

Since it appears that no delegation wishes to speak on this item this morning, the Committee will continue consideration of the item at its next meeting.

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES (A/AC.109/L.1741 and L.1742)

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to draw attention to the report prepared by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1741), setting out an account of the consultations held with representatives of the administering Powers concerned. Members also have before them in document A/AC.109/L.1742 a draft resolution on the item which was prepared in consultation with officers of the Committee and which was circulated last Friday.

In that regard, the Chairman noted with satisfaction the reiteration by a number of administering Powers of their readiness to continue to provide all relevant information on the Territories under their respective administration, to participate in the Committee's work and to receive visiting missions in the Territories concerned, as appropriate, and on the basis of consultations to be held subsequently.

The Chairman also noted that the understanding shown by the administering Powers during those consultations was most helpful in securing the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the two regional seminars, where they made major contributions to the deliberations. The first-hand information provided by the representatives of those Territories to the seminars will certainly be of great assistance to the Special Committee in its future consideration of the remaining Territories.

(The Chairman)

The Chairman will report to the Committee should there be any further developments in relation to this item.

As there are no speakers, may I take it that the Committee is prepared to adopt draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1742 without a vote?

Draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1742 was adopted.

Mr. MJAALAND (Norway): The question of sending visiting missions to the Territories affects to a considerable extent the United Nations role in the decolonization process. The co-operation of the administering Powers is a prerequisite if the United Nations is to fulfil its obligations under the Charter in this respect. My delegation therefore supports the general thrust of the draft resolution submitted by the Chairman. The question of the participation of administering Powers in the Committee's work, however, is clearly outside the scope of this agenda item. My delegation would consequently like to reserve its position in that regard.

The CHAIRMAN: As there are no other speakers, the Committee has thus concluded consideration of the item.

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/AC.109/1039 and Corr.1 and A/AC.109/L.1739)

THE CHAIRMAN: I wish to draw members' attention to the report prepared by the Secretary-General (A/AC.109/1039) and a corrigendum to it. Members also have before them in document A/AC.109/L.1739 a draft resolution prepared by the Chairman on the question.

As there are no comments, may I take it that the Committee is prepared to adopt draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1739 without a vote?

Draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1739 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus concluded consideration of the item.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1366th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 8 August 1990, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. TADESSE (Ethiopia)

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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations:

(a) Report of the Chairman;

(b) Report of the Secretary-General;

(c) Report of the Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARING (aide-mémoire 18/90/Add.1 and 21/90/Add.1) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: The first item on the agenda of this meeting is "Requests for hearing". I wish to draw the attention of members to additional requests for hearing relating to East Timor and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), which have been circulated in aide-mémoire 18/90/Add.1 and 21/90/Add.1, respectively.

In respect of the aide-mémoire relating to East Timor, members have before them a communication dated 7 August 1990, received from Indonesia, contained in document A/AC.109/1045/Add.1.

Mr. NASIER (Indonesia): Since this is my first appearance in this Committee, Sir, I should like to express my personal satisfaction at seeing you chair this important Committee. I am fully confident that under your wise and able guidance, the work of this session will be successfully concluded.

Turning to the matter under consideration, in response to aide-mémoire 18/90 and 18/90/Add.1 of the Special Committee, dated 27 July and 7 August 1990 respectively, my delegation wishes to reiterate Indonesia's principled position, as expressed earlier by my colleague on 1 August 1990. Consequently, my delegation strongly opposes the participation of the aforementioned persons as petitioners in the Committee's deliberations and requests that this opposition should be reflected in the official record of this meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: The reservations expressed by the representative of Indonesia will be reflected in the record of the meeting. On that understanding, and if there are no further comments, may I take it that the Committee agrees to accede to these requests?

It was so decided.

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS:

(a) REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN (A/AC.109/L.1740; E/1990/72);

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/45/309);

(c) REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS, INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE (A/AC.109/L.1722)

Mr. PAIC (Yugoslavia): In the thirtieth year since the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the United Nations has every right to feel proud and satisfied with its achievement in the field of decolonization. Namibia's accession to independence, whereby that country took its rightful place in the community of independent and free nations, was yet another confirmation of the irreplaceable role of our Organization and the contribution it has made to the realization of the aspirations of the peoples under colonial domination to attain their right to self-determination and a free choice of their development.

(Mr. Paic, Yugoslavia)

The fact that a fairly long list of Non-Self-Governing Territories is still before the Special Committee on decolonization is eloquent proof that the United Nations still has an important job to do. That is one of the main reasons why the non-aligned countries initiated action at the forty-third session to declare the period 1990-2000 the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. It is our belief that in the conditions of the relaxation of tension between big Powers this initiative will provide a fresh and powerful impetus to the decolonization of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The completion of the process of decolonization was, and remains, one of the basic preoccupations of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, whose current Chairman is my country. At the Ninth Summit Conference of the non-aligned countries, held last year in Belgrade, the non-aligned countries reaffirmed their principled position on the right of all peoples under colonial domination to self-determination and independence, regardless of their geographic location, size of their Territory or population.

Since the remaining colonies are mainly so-called small Non-Self-Governing Territories, the United Nations and the Committee are duty-bound to make special efforts to create adequate political, economic and educational conditions to enable the peoples of those Territories to decide freely on their future development. Special responsibility, however, lies on the administering Powers, which are expected to continue to co-operate constructively with the Committee and the world Organization a a whole in the realization of those goals.

Yugoslavia welcomed Namibia's accession to independence as a major victory in the process of the liberation of colonial peoples from foreigh domination. It was undoubtedly one of the most significant political developments this year,

(Mr. Paic, Yugoslavia)

understandably raising hopes that other colonial problems might be resolved as well. In this context, we are encouraged by the recent developments around the Western Sahara. The resolution (44/88) of the General Assembly, adopted at the forty-fourth regular session by consensus, Security Council resolution 658 (1990) and the sending of a technical team of the United Nations to the region give us every reason to believe that the years-long efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to hold a referendum on the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara will soon yield concrete results.

Yugoslavia fully supports the orientation of Argentina and Great Britain towards finding a solution to the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) problem on the basis of dialogue and negotiations. We are also encouraged by progress towards solving the question of New Caledonia.

Yugoslavia is also in favour of granting full independence to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific, the Atlantic and the Caribbean.

The results achieved in the field of decolonization are surely very significant. However, this process has not yet been completed. For its part, Yugoslavia as Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and a member of the Committee of 24 will continue fully and actively to support the realization of this goal, as it has done in the past.

Mr. HAGOSS (Ethiopia): Allow me at the outset, Sir, to express my delegation's satisfaction over the commendable manner in which you continue to guide the Committee's work. In the same vein, I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate all your fellow officers of the Committee as well as the Chairmen of the Sub-Committees on a job well performed.

(Mr. Hagoss, Ethiopia)

Through the years our Committee has examined the role of foreign economic and other interests in the Territories under colonial domination. In this regard, the situation in the then colonized Namibia revealed the role of foreign economic interests impeding the march towards the self-determination of the colonized people. Today we are heartened to note that Namibia is independent and is in a position to exercise full sovereignty over its natural resources.

Although the magnitude of the involvement of foreign economic interests in the remaining Territories is not as vast as that in the then colonized Namibia, their presence is significant enough to have ramifications for the ability of the peoples in those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination. As in most such cases, not only are those interests motivated by narrowly defined financial and economic gains, but they tend to be established within frameworks and arrangements which do not take due account of the ultimate interests of the inhabitants of those Territories.

Of particular concern to the international community has been the vulnerability of those island Territories to environmental damage and degradation. In this connection, the reported dumping of industrial waste on some of the Territories is a matter of grave concern, especially since many of them have tremendous potential in the realm of tourism. Likewise, we believe that the massive drift-net fishing which takes place in the territorial waters of those Territories is likely to deplete the marine resources of the inhabitants.

It is therefore our considered view that the administering Powers should assume their obligation to the inhabitants of those Territories by monitoring the activities of such economic interests with a view to safeguarding the permanent sovereignty of the inhabitants over their natural resources.

(Mr. Hagoss, Ethiopia)

While we attach paramount importance to those points, it is our firm belief that the obligation of the administering Powers is much more comprehensive. We maintain that the administering Powers should assist the Non-Self-Governing Territories in their efforts to build viable and diversified economies. In Territories endowed with arable land any assistance for agricultural development will go a long way to ensuring sustainable development of their respective economies.

As we are all aware, many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories under consideration by our Committee are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters associated with hurricanes or cyclones. While appreciating the timely response of the administering Powers in mitigating the ill effects of such natural disasters thus far, we earnestly hope that the administering Powers and the specialized agencies will continue to render any and all assistance likely to enhance the capabilities of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the field of advance warning as well as the broader area of relief and reconstruction.

As previous speakers have indicated, we have embarked upon a Decade dedicated to the total eradication of colonialism. Given the rather encouraging developments around the world, it is our ardent hope that the peoples in the Non-Self-Governing Territories will determine their future without delay. During these most crucial years in the history of mankind the constructive role the administering Powers are expected to play will be vital. For our part, we shall continue to highlight the plight of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories until the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is fully implemented.

Mrs. BERMUDEZ GARCIA (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): As we begin the final stage of the Committee's work at the current session I wish to congratulate you, Sir, on the successful convening of the regional seminar in Barbados. We also wish to convey to our co-workers in the Secretariat our thanks for all the help they have given me.

(Mrs. Bermudez Garcia, Cuba)

That event was a striking demonstration of how much yet remains to be done in the field of decolonization despite the 30 years that have elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). There the testimony of a large group of prominent persons regarding the economic situation in the colonial Territories of Latin America and the Caribbean discredited the theories of those who persist in talking about the benefits that the peoples of those Territories receive when foreign interests carry away their scarce natural resources and do not reinvest their astronomical profits in the development and well-being of those peoples, much less to create conditions for their speedy accession to independence. The seminar also rejected the utilization of those Territories for military purposes, not only because of their negative effects on stability, security and peace in a particular region but also because in most cases such activities deprive the indigenous population of broad areas of useful, arable land and because of the resulting devastation, environmental pollution and other dangers. The Vanuatu meeting was no less critical regarding these problems.

I must contribute to the efficient progress of our work by taking the minimum time necessary to reaffirm the position of my Government on the questions we are considering.

With regard to the activities of foreign interests, both economic and military, which, as has been historically demonstrated, constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the resolution that is the concern of this Committee, the Cuban delegation believes that we must continue our efforts to halt the exploitation of the human and material resources of all peoples still under colonial domination and must reaffirm, as many times as necessary, the postulates of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and all other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on these questions through almost all of its history.

(Mrs. Bermudez Garcia, Cuba)

Let us recall the responsibility of the administering Powers to promote the integral development of the Territories they administer; the failure to carry out this inescapable duty must be condemned without reservation or hypocrisy.

Before concluding, I should like to point out briefly that the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) marks the beginning of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism; however, the necessary plan of action for this decisive phase has as yet not been defined. My delegation wishes to reaffirm its readiness to collaborate in the proper observance of this General Assembly decision.

With regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) by specialized agencies and institutions, my delegation also considers it necessary to express strong criticism of those agencies - specifically the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank - which do not provide the help they are required to give under General Assembly resolutions on this question.

I should like to recall once again that Namibia's independence does not imply the end of colonialism in the world. Without wishing to turn my words into a mathematical exercise, I shall merely point out that at least 19 countries under colonial domination are still before this Committee for its consideration, and only the liberation of all of them can justify the dissolution of this indispensable body.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Everyone recognizes that such a substantial factor as the economic situation existing in colonial Territories is very important for the genuine safeguarding of human rights and the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. For that reason, the Declaration and many other decisions of the United Nations in the area of decolonization attach great importance to the vital problems of social and economic development in such Territories and to the protection of the rights and interests of their peoples in the economic sector. We can also understand, therefore, the attention given in the United Nations to the activities of foreign economic and other interests in colonial Territories, and in this respect we stress the inadmissibility of any kind of activity that hinders the speedy attainment of the goals of the Declaration.

According to the Charter and to many decisions of the Organization, the administering Powers must do everything possible to promote the social and economic development of the Territories under their administration, take account of and maintain respect for the distinctive way of life of the population of those Territories, provide assistance in the training of the local personnel needed for expanding the people's participation in the decision-making process, implement programmes aimed at increasing national well-being, solving employment problems and encouraging local initiative and enterprise. Many honest efforts and effective assistance in this cause are, of course, deserving of encouragement. On the other hand, in those cases in which foreign economic interests permit the rapacious exploitation of the natural resources of colonial Territories, they are acting to the detriment of the interests and rights of the population, and such practices must be unconditionally and resolutely stopped. It is quite justifiable that in its decisions the United Nations condemns these practices.

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

In the documents submitted for consideration by the Committee there is scant information as to what measures are being taken by the administering Powers for the appropriate development of the Territories and towards limiting any possible harmful effects in cases of uncontrolled activities of those foreign economic interests, which, in their race for profits, ignore the legitimate interests and aspirations of the local population and its rights to its natural resources.

We support the demands for the elimination of the serious obstacles that such reprehensible practices place in the path of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. We support the inalienable right of peoples to dispose freely of the natural resources of their Territories, and we believe that reliable guarantees of that right are essential. Obviously what is required in this respect is a clear rule that ensures the effective monitoring and regulation of the activities of foreign economic and other interests and helps to attract - on reasonable terms - foreign economic assistance in promoting the integration of dependent Territories into the world economy and make possible the rational use of their potential in the interest of the social and economic development of the Territories and in the training of indigenous personnel and the development of the necessary infrastructures while preserving the distinctive qualities, the culture and the traditions of the peoples of those Territories. It is essential that the administering Powers should give particular attention to this question, as called for by the Charter and by the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the Organization.

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

In its instruments adopted over many years, the United Nations has unambiguously and justly spoken out against the continuation of military activities and the maintenance of military bases and installations in colonial Territories, considering the continuation of such practices to be a substantial obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Unfortunately, no information made available to the Special Committee indicates that such harmful activities are being halted. Moreover, the speedy and full implementation of the Declaration requires non-involvement of those Territories in military activities, elimination of military bases there and a ban on the establishment of new bases. Likewise, of course, those Territories and the areas adjacent to them should not be used for the emplacement and testing of weapons of mass destruction.

In that connection, I should like to recall that at the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament the Soviet Union introduced a proposal on the elimination by the year 2000 of all foreign military presence and foreign military bases on the territory of other countries. That proposal still stands.

Permit me to express my confidence that the major positive shifts in the world arena that characterize what is now the dominant trend of progress in international relations will bring much closer the solution of the problem of eliminating any military presence in the Territories that fall within the purview of the Declaration on decolonization.

Mr. CISTERNAS (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): It is only a few months until the thirtieth anniversary of the General Assembly's adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and my delegation feels we can all be satisfied in large measure - and indeed justly

(Mr. Cisternas, Chile)

proud - with respect to the work done by the United Nations. Since the founding of the Organization in 1945, more than 80 countries previously under colonial domination have joined the United Nations. Since the adoption of the Declaration in 1960, more than 50 colonial Territories have achieved independence or integration with other independent States. Thus, the work done by the United Nations has been of singular importance and relevance.

As you, Mr. Chairman, stressed early in the session, there remain fewer than 1.5 million individuals living under colonial domination in Territories falling within the mandate of this Special Committee. But our work is not finished; much remains to be done, and in that work the administering Powers have a special role to play, so that the inhabitants of those 18 Territories can, as soon as possible, achieve independence and fully exercise their legitimate right of self-determination.

We believe that the independence of Namibia has, in a sense, introduced new, very positive factors with respect to the item under consideration. First of all, apart from a single case under special consideration - the case of Western Sahara, on which the Secretary-General has a specific mandate from the Security Council - it may be said that Africa has been freed from the scourge of colonialism. In that connection, my delegation would like the draft resolutions before us - on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, on the activities of foreign economic and other interests in Non-Self-Governing Territories and on military activities by colonial Powers - to be fully in keeping with the present situation. My delegation is prepared to support and vote in favour of draft resolutions that address the new world situation.

The CHAIRMAN: In connection with the remarks just made by the representative of Chile, I should like to remind members that three preliminary draft resolutions - on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies, on foreign economic interests and on military activities - were circulated a few days ago for consideration by the members of the Committee. As indicated in the accompanying aide-mémoire, members who wished to amend the texts or make any other suggestions before the Secretariat prepared the final draft texts were invited to forward their comments in writing to the Secretariat before certain deadlines. For instance, the deadline with respect to the draft resolution on implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies was yesterday.

With respect to the other two preliminary draft texts, I should like, for the benefit of members, to read out the major points raised in the aide-mémoire as follows:

(The Chairman)

"In preparing the draft working paper, the expanded Bureau took into account the resolution/decision adopted by the Committee at its previous session. To facilitate the consideration by the Committee, extensive consultations were held by the expanded Bureau and it agreed to propose the text submitted.

"Members are informed that where a common position was not possible, it was proposed that the text of last year's resolution be the basis for consideration by the members of the Committee. Amendments suggested by individual members of the expanded Bureau are contained in the attached notes" - that is, if and when those were made at the level of the preliminary discussions of the expanded Bureau.

Other members wishing to submit specific suggestions and/or proposals on the text were asked to do so in writing to the Secretariat at the given deadlines I noted earlier in one of the cases. Thus, for the remaining draft proposals, members can still make their suggestions or comments in writing until 3 p.m. today, as was originally set for the submission of such amendments.

I wished to read out the aide-mémoire again in order to indicate to members, first of all, the manner in which those preliminary ideas were gathered and, secondly, the rights and prerogatives of members to submit those amendments. Of course, all this is with a view to arriving at a consensus decision on the item, in keeping with past practice, at a subsequent meeting of the Bureau. That is the manner in which we wished to proceed in finalizing our draft texts.

Mr. MJAALAND (Norway): As a point of clarification, I should like to state that the wording of the aide-mémoire to which you just referred, Sir, concerning foreign economic activities, military installations, and specialized agencies should not be read as suggesting that my delegation, which is represented on the Bureau, agrees with the draft texts presented.

(Mr. Mjaaland, Norway)

In the absence of an agreement in the Bureau, we only consented to the draft texts to be submitted to the Committee for its consideration. As is evident from the third paragraph of the aide-mémoire, a common position was in many instances not possible on the present draft texts.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will continue consideration of items 2 to 4 at a subsequent meeting, with a view to taking action on the reports of the two regional seminars and the draft decisions concerning those items.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.